

## Some comparisons between Jesus and Muhammad...

Jesus and Muhammad both claimed to be sent by God. Both did works of charity to help the poor. Both elevated the role of women in their respective societies. Both taught about God, and in their own way, tried to bring people into a deeper spiritual communion with God.

Muhammad is considered by Muslims to be the last prophet of God. Jesus is considered by Christians to be the begotten Son of God as revealed to us by the Messianic Prophecies.<sup>1</sup> These prophecies spoke of God “walking among His people” (Leviticus 26:11-12) and “teaching us His commands” (Isaiah 54:13, John 6:45) by “writing His laws on our hearts” (Jeremiah 31:31-34) as He led by example.

When we analyze the application of Jesus and Muhammad’s teachings, we see a distinct difference in their lifestyles and accomplishments. The differences in their spirituality can also be assessed by the way each lived as they practiced what they preached...

| <b>Differences Between Muhammad and Jesus</b>   |  |
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| <b>Muhammad's life as recorded in the Qur'an and Hadiths (biographies of Muhammad)</b>  | <b>Jesus' life as recorded in the Gospels and the New Testament books of the Bible</b> |
| Said Allah hates those who don't accept Islam.<br>(Qur'an 30:4, 3:32, 22:38)  | Said God loves everyone.<br>(John 3:16)  |
| <i>"I have been commanded to fight against people till they testify that there is no god but Allah, and that Muhammad is the messenger of Allah"</i><br>(Muslim 1:33) | <i>"He who lives by the sword will die by the sword."</i><br>(Matthew 26:52)           |
| Stoned women for adultery.<br>(Muslim 4206)   | <i>"Let he who is without sin cast the first stone."</i><br>(John 8:7)                 |
| Permitted stealing from unbelievers.<br>(Bukhari 44:668, Ibn Ishaq 764)   | <i>"Thou shalt not steal."</i><br>(Matthew 19:18)                                      |
| Permitted lying.<br>(Sahih Muslim 6303, Bukhari 49:857)   | <i>"Thou shalt not bear false witness."</i><br>(Matthew 19:18)                         |
| Owned and traded slaves.<br>(Sahih Muslim 3901)   | Neither owned nor traded slaves.   |
| Beheaded 800 Jewish men and boys.<br>(Sahih Muslim 4390)  | Beheaded no one.   |
| Murdered those who insulted him.<br>(Bukhari 56:369, 4:241)   | Preached forgiveness.<br>(Matthew 18:21-22, 5:38)                                      |

<sup>1</sup> For more information on Messianic Prophecies fulfilled by Jesus Christ, please visit:  
<http://christiananswers.net/dictionary/messianicprophecies.html>

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| "If then anyone transgresses the prohibition against you, Transgress ye likewise against him"<br>(Qur'an 2:194)                     | "If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also."<br>(Matthew 5:39)                       |
| Jihad in the way of Allah elevates one's position in Paradise by a hundred fold.<br>(Muslim 4645)                                   | "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called Sons of God"<br>(Matthew 5:9)                              |
| Married 13 wives and kept sex slaves.<br>(Bukhari 5:268, Qur'an 33:50)  | Was celibate.  |
| Slept with a 9-year-old child.<br>(Sahih Muslim 3309, Bukhari 58:236)   | Did not have sex with children.  |
| Ordered the murder of women.<br>(Ibn Ishaq 819, 995)  | Never harmed a woman.  |
| <i>"O you who believe! Fight those of the unbelievers who are near to you and let them find in you hardness."</i><br>(Qur'an 9:123) | <i>"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."</i><br>(Matthew 5:5)                                |
| Ordered 65 military campaigns and raids in his last 10 years.<br>(Ibn Ishaq )   | Ordered no military campaigns, nor offered any approval of war or violence.                                      |
| Killed captives taken in battle.<br>(Ibn Ishaq 451)   | Never took captives.<br>Never killed anyone.   |
| Encouraged his men to rape enslaved women.<br>(Abu Dawood 2150, Qur'an 4:24)  | Never encouraged rape.<br>Never enslaved women.  |
| Demanded captured slaves and a fifth of all other loot taken in war.<br>(Qur'an 8:41)   | <i>"The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve."</i><br>(Matthew 20:28)                                  |
| Was never tortured, but tortured others.<br>(Muslim 4131, Ibn Ishaq 436, 595, 734, 764)   | Suffered torture, but never tortured anyone.   |
| <i>"And fight them until there is no more persecution and religion is only for Allah"</i><br>(Qur'an 8:39)                          | <i>"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you"</i><br>(Matthew 5:44)                                |
| Blessed the brutal murder of a half-blind man<br>(al-Tabari 1440)   | Healed a blind man<br>(Mark 8:28)  |
| Ordered a slave to build the very pulpit from which he preached Islam.<br>(Bukhari 47:743)  | Washed his disciples feet.<br>(John 13:5)  |
| What are the Greatest Commandments?<br><i>"Belief in Allah and Jihad in His cause"</i><br>(Muslim 1:149)                            | What are the Greatest Commandments?<br><i>"Love God and love thy neighbor as thyself."</i><br>(Matthew 22:34-40) |
| Demanded the protection of armed bodyguards, even in a house of worship<br>(Qur'an 4:102)   | Chastised anyone attempting to defend him with force.<br>(John 18:10-12)   |

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| Died fat and wealthy from what was taken from others in war or demanded from others in tribute.   | Demanded nothing for himself.<br>Died without possessions.                                    |
| Advocated crucifying others.<br>(Qur'an 5:33, Muslim 16:4131)                                     | Was crucified himself.  |
| <i>According to his followers:</i><br>Had others give their lives for him.<br>(Sahih Muslim 4413) | <i>According to his followers:</i><br>Gave his life for others.<br>(John 18:11 and elsewhere) |

| <b>Differences Between the followers of Muhammad and Jesus</b>  |  |
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| <b>As recorded in the Qur'an and Hadiths (biographies of Muhammad)</b>  | <b>As recorded in the Gospels and the New Testament books of the Bible</b>   |
| Lived as warriors.  | Lived like harmless hippies.   |
| Slew and persecuted religious minorities.   | Were slain and persecuted as a religious minority.   |
| Emphasis on Jihad (the way of Muhammad)<br><br>"He who fights that Allah's word should be superior fights in Allah's cause"<br>(Bukhari 53:355) | Emphasis on Evangelism (the way of Jesus)<br><br>"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"<br>(Matthew 15:16) |
| Attacked and conquered the populations in parts of 28 modern countries in just the first three decades following Muhammad's death.              | Did not resort to violence of any sort, despite tremendous persecution.  |
| Declared holy war on the people of five major world religions in just the first 100 years following Muhammad's death.                           | Went centuries without declaring 'holy war'.   |
| Plundered and lived off the wealth of others.   | Gave away their possessions to those in need.<br>(Acts 2:44-45)  |
| Captured and enslaved non-Muslim people.  | Considered themselves to be slaves of others.  |
| Waged war to keep members from leaving the religion. Put apostates to death.  | No record of aggression toward apostates.  |
| Muhammad's own family members quickly fell into armed warfare against each other.   | Jesus' disciples never resorted to violence against one another (or anyone else).  |
| First 240 Years:<br>11 of the first 32 caliphs were murdered by fellow Muslims.   | First 240 Years:<br>14 of the first 25 popes were martyred by pagans (none by fellow Christians).                                      |
| Caliphs were polygamous and maintained harems of hundreds of captured sex slaves.   | Popes were expected to be celibate.  |
| Islamic mosques sustained by taxes forced from subjugated non-Muslims (the jizya).  | Christian churches sustained by voluntary tithes from Christians.  |

| <b>Differences Between the Qur'an and the Bible</b>  |   |
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| External sources (the Hadith and Sira) necessary for translating the Qur'an  | Historical context contained within the text of the Bible   |
| Must know Arabic in order to "fully understand" the Qur'an (according to Muslim apologists)  | Universal. Can be translated into other languages without excessive commentary.   |
| Chronological progression of the Quran is from peace to violence.  | Chronological progression of the Bible is from violence to peace.   |
| The words 'torture' and 'punishment' appear six times more often than in the New Testament.  | The word 'love' appears five times more often in the New Testament than in the Qur'an,  |
| Contains not a single original moral value.  | The 'Sermon on the Mount' and others.   |
| Suffering is an excuse for violent revenge and establishment of Islam by force<br><br>"And slay them wherever ye find them, and drive them out of the places whence they drove you out, for persecution [of Muslims] is worse than slaughter [of non-believers]...and fight them until persecution is no more, and religion is for Allah."<br>(Qur'an 2:191) | Suffering builds character<br><br>"We also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope"<br>(Romans 5:4)             |
| Emphasis on this World<br><br>"And Allah has made you heirs to their land and their dwellings and their property"<br>(Qur'an 33:27)  | Emphasis on the Next<br><br>"Mine is not a kingdom of this world"<br>(John 18:36, see also Luke 14:33)  |
| Kill, convert or subjugate Christians and Jews.<br>(Qur'an 9:29)   | Share one's faith with gentleness and respect.<br>(1 Peter 3:15)  |
| Martyrs as Killers<br><br>"Allah hath purchased of the believers their persons and their goods; for theirs (in return) is the garden (of Paradise): they fight in His cause, and slay and are slain"<br>(Qur'an 9:111)   | Martyrs as Martyrs<br><br>"As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are counted as sheep for the slaughter"<br>(Romans 8:36)   |
| Killing Apostates<br><br>"They but wish that ye should reject Faith, as they do, and thus be on the same footing (as they): But take not friends from their ranks until they flee in the way of Allah (From what is forbidden). But if they turn renegades, seize them and slay them wherever ye find them"<br>(Qur'an 4:89, also Bukhari 52:260, 83:37...)  | Letting God Judge Apostates<br><br>"For we know Him that has said, 'Vengeance belongs unto me, I will recompense,' says the Lord. And again, 'The Lord shall judge his people'"<br>(Hebrews 10:25-30) |
| Punishment<br><br>"Let not compassion move you from carrying out God's law..."<br>(Qur'an 24:2)  | Mercy<br><br>"Love is patient. Love is kind... It keeps no record of wrongs"<br>(1 Corinthians 13:4-5)  |

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| <p>Charity and Non-Believers</p> <p>Mercy toward fellow Muslims - ruthlessness toward unbelievers. Muslims are warned not to befriend those outside the faith. They must even ensure that their charity tithe (zakat) does not go toward the needy of other religions.<br/>(Qur'an 48:29, 3:28, Sharia)</p> | <p>Charity and Non-Believers</p> <p>Christians are specifically told that even those who hate them are entitled to kindness and charity. They should be loved and cared for as surely as any fellow believer.<br/>(Mark 10:25-37)</p>                  |
| <p>The Qur'an does not command husbands to love their wives, but it does give men permission to beat disobedient women.<br/>(Qur'an 4:34, Sahih Muslim 2127)</p>  | <p>"Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them."<br/>(No permission to beat women)<br/>(Colossians 3:19)</p>  |
| <p>Explicitly allows Muslim men to rape their female slaves, even those already married.<br/>(Qur'an 4:24, 70:29-30, 23:5-6...)</p>   | <p>Tells masters and slaves to serve each other as if serving God.<br/>(Ephesians 6:7-9)</p>   |
| <p>Muhammad is the messenger of Allah. And those who are with him are ruthless to the unbelievers"<br/>(Qur'an 48:29)</p>   | <p>"Do good to them that hate you"<br/>(Luke 6:27)</p>   |
| <p>Allah wills those that stray and are lost<br/>(Qur'an 16:93)</p>   | <p>God wants all people saved<br/>(1 Timothy 2:4)</p>  |
| <p>Warns Against Questioning Faith.<br/>(Qur'an 5:101-102)</p>  | <p>Welcomes Intellectual Challenge.<br/>(1 Peter 3:15)</p>   |
| <p>Violence as Virtue</p> <p>"Fighting is prescribed for you, and ye dislike it. But it is possible that ye dislike a thing which is good for you, and that ye love a thing which is bad for you. But Allah knoweth, and ye know not."<br/>(Qur'an 2:216)</p>   | <p>Violence as Sin</p> <p>"Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord. On the contrary: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him...'"<br/>(Romans 12:19-20)</p> |
| <p>Hell for unbelief.<br/>Good deeds count for naught<br/>(Qur'an 18:102-107)</p>   | <p>Hell for bad deeds and the failure to do what is right<br/>(Romans 2:6-8, Matthew 16:27, Matthew 25:41-45)</p>  |
| <p>Judging</p> <p>"Strive against the disbelievers and the hypocrites! Be harsh with them..."<br/>(Qur'an 9:73)</p>   | <p>Judge Not</p> <p>"For when you pass judgment on another person, you condemn yourself..."<br/>(Romans 2:1)</p>   |
| <p>Taking wealth from others</p> <p>"Allah promiseth you much booty that ye will capture..."<br/>(Qur'an 48:20)</p>   | <p>Working for and giving wealth to others</p> <p>"The thief must no longer steal but must work hard and do what is good with his own hands, so that he might have something to give to the needy."<br/>(Ephesians 4:28)</p>                           |
| <p>Calls down Allah's curse on Christians and those of other religions.<br/>(Qur'an 9:30)</p>   | <p>Calls down God's blessing on those who curse Christians.<br/>(Matthew 5:44)</p>   |

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| <p>Arrogance &amp; Privilege</p> <p>"Ye are the best of peoples, evolved for mankind" (Qur'an 3:110)</p>   | <p>Humility &amp; Servitude</p> <p>"If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all." (Mark 9:35)</p> |
| <p>"O you who believe! do not take My enemy and your enemy for friends: Would you offer them love while they deny what has come to you of the truth? (Qur'an 60:1)</p> | <p>"Love your enemies..." (Luke 6:27)</p>  |

| <b>Differences Between some Islamic and Christian cultures</b>       |   |
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| Life based on the Qur'an   | Life based on the Bible   |
| Madrasahs that indoctrinate Muslim children with bigotry and terror. | Mission schools that teach reading and writing to Christians and Muslims alike. |
| Suicide bombings for Allah   | No suicide bombings for Jesus   |
| International terror organizations.                                  | International charities.  |
| No formal charities for non-Muslims.                                 | Leading provider of disaster relief to Muslims.                                 |
| Murder of aid workers.   | Supply of aid workers.  |
| Christians in jail for apostasy or blasphemy.                        | Religious freedom.  |
| Modern-day slavery in the name of Islam.                             | Abolition in the name of Christianity.  |
| Muslim clerics who engage in or condone terrorism.                   | Christian clerics murdered each year by terror groups rife with Muslim clerics. |
| Daily religious violence against Hindus.                             | None.   |
| Daily religious violence against Jews.                               | None.   |
| Daily religious violence against Buddhists.                          | None.   |
| Daily religious violence against Muslims.                            | None.   |
| Religion   | Technology & Medicine   |
| Censorship   | Freedom of speech   |
| Intolerance for criticism of Islam.                                  | Tolerance for religious dissent.  |
| Restricting other religions from preaching faith.                    | Allowing all religions the same right to evangelize.                            |
| Conversions allowed to Islam only.                                   | Freedom of conscience.  |
| Converts to Christianity beheaded.                                   | No dead converts to Islam.  |
| Most famous Muslim: Osama bin Laden.                                 | Most famous Christian: The Pope.  |

The big question is, which lifestyle brings a person into true spiritual harmony with God who is known in the Christian Bible as the “God of Love” (1 John 4:8-16)? We should be very honest with ourselves when answering this question. Our eternal salvation depends on it...

### **1 John 4:8-16**

But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. 10 This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. 12 No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us. 13 And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us. 14 Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 All who confess that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. 16 We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. (1 John 4:8-16)

### **Deus Caritas Est (*God is Love*)**

1. “God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him” (1 John 4:16). These words from the *First Letter of John* express with remarkable clarity the heart of the Christian faith: the Christian image of God and the resulting image of mankind and its destiny. In the same verse, Saint John also offers a kind of summary of the Christian life: “We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us”.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> *Deus Caritas Est* (“God is love”), [http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_ben-xvi\\_enc\\_20051225\\_deus-caritas-est\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/encyclicals/documents/hf_ben-xvi_enc_20051225_deus-caritas-est_en.html)